

Continues to push for legislation to ensure better care for our veterans

Washington, DC – Congressman John Adler, the only New Jersey and Philadelphia-area member on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, today applauded the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) decision to issue its second largest fine of \$227,500 for a medical issue towards the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital. Last year, it was discovered that the Philadelphia VA's brachytherapy program mistreated nearly 100 patients over a six-year period. Congressman Adler, who recently met with top NRC officials, supports the NRC's punitive actions but pledged to continue to seek more accountability and transparency in the VA's medical programs.

"The Philadelphia VA let down the brave men and women who have proudly served our country," said Congressman Adler, who first called for a Congressional investigation into the hospital. "I am pleased to see this common sense decision to hold the Philadelphia VA accountable for their egregious mistakes. While this fine appropriately reflects the hospital's wrong doing, I am working in Congress to pass legislation to help protect our veterans from future medical misconduct."

Congressman Adler has called for and participated in two House Veterans Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation hearings concerning the Philadelphia VA's mistreatment of patients. Additionally, Rep. Adler has held several meetings with VA and NRC officials to make sure these mistakes were not repeated.

On Veterans Day last year, the Congressman introduced legislation to help prevent further medical misconduct at the Philadelphia VA Hospital. Congressman Adler's legislation seeks to remedy the glaring lack of oversight that existed in the brachytherapy program at the Philadelphia VA by making three major reforms:

- All low-volume programs that are currently operating in the VA must be evaluated and submitted to Congress annually to ensure that they are meeting their safety standards.
- Every VA employee and independent contractor working in a VA medical facility must be trained in what constitutes a "medical event."
 - o If a VA hospital fails to administer such training, the Secretary may suspend their use of radioactive materials on veterans.
- A contract for medical services cannot be renewed until evaluations on that independent contractor's performance have been conducted.